



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 15, 2011

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PRESIDENT SHELLY ANNOUNCES TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION DIRECTOR

FCC appoints Tagaban to Native Broadband Task Force

Washington, D.C.— President Ben Shelly today announced his recent appointment of Brian Tagaban as acting director of the Navajo Nation's Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NNTRC). He is a former NNTRC executive director and member of the Navajo Broadband Workgroup.

Before returning to the Navajo Nation in 2003, Tagaban garnered six years of extensive computer engineering experience at Hewlett Packard and two Silicon Valley Internet companies in California. He also worked for the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation, 2003-2006 and the Division of Health, 2007-2010. Tagaban has a bachelor's of computer science and engineering degree from Northern Arizona University.



(L to R) President Shelly and Brian Tagaban at the FCC's Native Nations Day on March 3, 2011.

In his first visit to Washington, D.C. earlier this month with President Shelly, they joined Native American leaders from across the nation at the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Native Nations Day. At the meeting, Chairman Julius Genachowski named 19 tribal leaders and members to the new FCC-Native Nations Broadband Task Force.

"I am proud to announce Brian was named to the FCC's Native Nations Broadband Task Force," said President Shelly. "He will advocate on behalf of the Navajo Nation and I am confident his prior experience and broadband knowledge will help us expand our telecommunication services and fiber optic projects to a revenue generating level."

President Shelly and Tagaban also met with Chairman Genachowski to share the Navajo Nation's new ideas in telecommunications and ensure the Navajo tribe has a voice on the changing FCC policy.

Tagaban concluded, "We can take a leadership role and share knowledge and experience with other tribes in protecting customers and regulating foreign for-profit telecommunications companies operating on tribal lands. The growth of wireless spectrum and technology has made it more urgent for future sales or leases of spectrum on Navajo land to require a government-to-government consultation."

According to the FCC, in an unprecedented step hosted the first Native Nations Day under the leadership of Geoffrey Blackwell and his staff from the new FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy. The Office was established last year after Native Nations articulated the need for such an office to coordinate Nation-to-Nation consultation on communication and telecommunication regulatory items specific to the 565 American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages.

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